

25<sup>th</sup> of February 2010

**Public Testimony**

*Testimony to the Labor Committee regarding paid sick days legislation:*

I am in favor of SB 63. It is crucial that you support this bill that will give employees paid sick days. For 9 years I worked at Franklin Mushroom Farms without a single paid sick day.

My job required constant physically demanding work, therefore coming into work sick could have resulted in many dangerous situations for both me and for my coworkers. For example, I operated a forklift and had to go in and out of 40 degree walk-in coolers throughout my shift, into warm processing rooms. I could have seriously injured myself or a coworker when I was sick and I could have gotten much sicker!

In the nine years I worked at the farm I only called out three times. And when I did call out my boss got angry. If there was an emergency, I simply was not allowed to call out. One time I was so sick I had to keep running to the bathroom, I was so angry that I felt like walking out, but I did not want to risk losing my job.

If I were ever to take a day off from work, I would fall behind on my bills and payments. One of my biggest problems is that I had to have surgery on my face, which cost me over \$50,000. I could not take extra days off to recover because I did not want to lose my job.

This legislation needs to be passed because in this economy, everyone is trying to hold on to their job. Therefore, so many workers like me have no choice but to go to work sick. I believe that everyone deserves a minimum amount of paid sick days, so they are not forced to do dangerous jobs while sick and potentially spread it to coworkers. Please make this bill one of your top priorities, because so many people will benefit from it. Thanks a lot.

Respectfully,

Chris Connelly